

# GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT



## *A New Way of Doing Business*

The 1993 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA or the “Results Act”) is significantly altering the way that the federal government does business. All federal agencies are now required to identify strategic, measurable outcomes and gear their work towards their achievement. Agency budget proposals are tied to GPRA measures, which are used to determine accomplishments. Through GPRA, Congress and the Executive Branch seek to ensure that desired, significant results are being generated by activities supported by federal monies.

The Administration on Aging began to build its budget requests in compliance with the “Results Act” concomitant with the implementation of the new National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) and the State Program Report (SPR). GPRA performance plans for fiscal year 1999 and 2000 relied heavily on information from the NAPIS / SPR system.

The NAPIS/SPR system provides State-level aggregate information about the number of people who receive services under the Older Americans Act. It also provides information on the number of units of services they receive, the costs of services and – for certain “registered” services – about the characteristics of people served. In GPRA terms, this is program *output* information.

While output information describes programs, clients, and services, the Government Performance and Results Act actually requires information about program *outcomes*; that is, information about how services received have helped the people who receive them and about how funding for service systems is used to improve and modernize those systems.

**The 1993 Government Performance and Results Act fundamentally altered the Federal budget process. In the past, AoA requests for Congressional appropriations have been based primarily on demonstrating the *need* for services among older Americans. The emphasis now is on demonstrating that Federal funds produce specific measurable and beneficial *results* that improve the lives of older Americans. This new emphasis is consistent with AoA’s view that evidence-based program design – and the modernization of aging services and programs – are critical to preparing the aging network for the aging of the baby boom generation.**

## *GPRA Requires Information About Program Outcomes*



ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services / Administration on Aging / 200 Independence Avenue, SW / Washington, DC 20201

## ***State and Area Collaboration***

To develop the required program outcome measures so that service outcomes can be determined, AoA has undertaken the Performance Outcome Measures Project, in partnership with the National Association of State Units on Aging and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Nineteen state and area agencies are collaborating on the project, the objective of which is to develop and field-test performance outcome measures suitable for ongoing use in determining the effectiveness of the aging network and the services we provide. The major achievement of the project to date has been the development of consensus among project participants on outcome measures that are relevant to the performance of the aging network.

These measures emphasize individual characteristics of the people we serve – including their nutritional risk, physical functioning, emotional well-being, social functioning, and satisfaction with the services they receive. Other measures look at the benefits of services that support caregivers, and the degree that caregivers are satisfied with the services they receive. We are also developing the means to measure the performance of the aging network in reducing barriers to services and building the capacity of the aging services system.

AoA has contracted with researchers and academics to help develop data-collection instruments in each of these areas that draw on the best research available. The participating agencies and national associations are full partners in the development of these instruments, and will participate in the field-testing of performance outcome measures over the winter and spring. We expect to have data from the field tests by this time next year.

Meanwhile, AoA is preparing the plans and reports required by the GPRA law. These include a performance plan for fiscal year 2001 and a performance report for fiscal year 1999. AoA will, of necessity, provide information about aging services and programs during fiscal year 1997 because that is the most recent year for which NAPIS / SPR information is available. Concurrently, AoA is developing computer software that will allow States to validate and verify NAPIS / SPR information before submitting the information to AoA. We expect this will reduce the time lag in reporting data and improve our ability to comply with GPRA requirements.

## ***From Outputs to Outcomes***

The fiscal year 2001 GPRA performance report represents a transition from earlier performance reports which relied exclusively on program *output* information to future plans which will rely more on a mix of outputs (Congress will always want to know how many home-delivered meals were served, for example) and program *outcomes* now being developed and tested. Both the 2001 performance plan and the 1999 performance report will be available on AoA's web site following the release of the President's fiscal year 2001 budget.

## ***Participating Agencies***

Area Agency on Aging, Region One  
Phoenix, Arizona

Area Agency on Aging of Western  
Arkansas, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Los Angeles City Department of Aging  
Los Angeles, California

Connecticut Association of Area  
Agencies on Aging  
Hartford, Connecticut

Connecticut Bureau of Elder Rights and  
Community Services  
Hartford, Connecticut

Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
Tallahassee, Florida

Georgia Division of Aging Services  
Atlanta, Georgia

Hawaii County Office of Aging  
Hilo, Hawaii

CICOA, The Access Network  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Indiana Bureau of Aging and In-Home  
Services, Indianapolis, Indiana

Lifestream Services, Inc.  
Yorktown, Indiana

Iowa Department of Elder Affairs  
Des Moines, Iowa

Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging  
Waterloo, Iowa

Area Agency on Aging of Hunterdon  
County, Flemington, New Jersey

New Jersey Division of Senior Affairs  
Trenton, New Jersey

Ohio Department of Aging  
Columbus, Ohio

Council on Aging of the Cincinnati  
Area, Cincinnati, Ohio

**Working in close partnership with its sister agencies in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the AoA provides leadership, technical assistance, and support to the national aging network of 57 State Units on Aging, 655 Area Agencies on Aging, 225 Tribal and Native organizations representing 300 American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal organizations, and two organizations serving Native Hawaiians, plus thousands of service providers, adult care centers, caregivers, and volunteers. For more information about the AoA, please contact:**

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